

## **Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment evaluation of use of the Denver Coliseum parking lot as a homeless shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic**

The City of Denver has proposed to use the Denver Coliseum parking lot as a space to temporarily house people who are experiencing homelessness during the pandemic and have asked the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to weigh in on their proposal. The proposal includes bathroom facilities, shower facilities, food and potable/bottled water. They will also staff the facilities for security, the enclosure will be fenced to control movement to unsecure areas, and monitor social distancing.

The Denver Coliseum parking lot is part of Operable Unit 2 for the Vasquez Boulevard/Interstate 70 Superfund site. The main contaminants of concern for this operable unit are metals: arsenic and lead in the soil. Since they will be housing people on the paved portion of the parking lot, there is no potential human exposure to these metals as the pavement acts as a barrier. For the areas outside of the parking lot, there is a park to the west, which was remediated as part of the Globeville Landing Outfall project, and it too is protective of possible human exposure to metals.

Based upon their proposed use of the site and the safeguards they will have in place to regulate the flow and number of people, the state feels that Denver's proposal is protective of human health with respect to possible exposure to arsenic and lead.